

GATAIVAI FUEL STORAGE TANKS



HISTORY:

During World War II, the U.S. Navy built three concrete storage tanks in the village of Gataivai. The aboveground storage tanks, approximately 35 feet in diameter and 8 feet deep, were used to store fuel oil. Abandoned after World War II, the tanks were incorporated into existing residential developments. Two of the tanks were partially covered, while the third was completely buried under fill material behind two retaining walls. Industrial Technology (IT) was contracted to permanently close the three storage tanks. A total of approximately 95,000 gallons of fuel oil, 27,000 gallons of water and 17,000 gallons of sludge were removed from the three fuel storage tanks. Of this amount, approximately 20,000 gallons of fuel oil was recycled at the local Van Camp Tuna Cannery. 15,000 gallons of water was processed and discharged through the local sewage treatment plant. The remaining materials were shipped in containers to Hawaii for treatment. Barium, arsenic, selenium, and Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) were detected in the soil samples submitted for Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) analysis, however, the concentrations of each did not exceed the TCLP regulatory limit.

During the tank closure operation, Chief Tavai of Gataivai passed away, and the family of the Chief requested that Tank 1 be converted into a tomb. The family's request was granted and they signed a waiver releasing IT and the government from future liability associated with the use of the tank/tomb. The tomb was completed on February 2, 1991.

CURRENT STATUS:

Site reconnaissance was conducted by IT on October 7, 1990 (*Final Report Site Assessment Report For The Closure of Three Fuel Storage Tanks Utulei, American Samoa July 1992* Woodward-Clyde Consultants). Tank closure was subdivided into two phases. Phase I covered the closure of Tanks 1 and 2 and was completed on November 30, 1990. Phase II, which closed Tank 3, concluded on February 7, 1991. AS-EPA was satisfied with the closure of the storage tanks and determined additional investigation or remediation was not required.

Details	
Category:	FUDS
Village, Island:	Gataivai, Tutuila
Nature of Contamination:	Petroleum
Coordinates:	14°17'3.27"S 170°40'38.88"W
Site Size:	0.5 acres
Response Status:	Completed in 1991
Suitable for Unrestricted Use?	Yes
Controls:	N/A
Lead Agency:	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division (CEPOD)
Enforcement Authority:	AS-EPA
Property/Ownership Status:	American Samoa Government
Last Updated:	March 2010